A

CATECHISM

ON THE

DUTY of PRAYER,

AND OF

PUBLICK WORSHIP.

BRITISH MUSEUM

LESSON I.

Queſtion. WHAT do you mean by the *Sabbath-day?*

Anſwer. A day of reſt.

Queſt. How ſhould it be made a day of reſt?

Ans. By reſting from the works and labours of other days.

Queſt. What do the Scriptures teach you concerning the Sabbath-day?

Ans. We are commanded to keep it holy.

Queſt. Where is it ſo written?

Ans. In the fourth commandment: *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath-day.*

LESSON II.

Queſt. How are you to keep it holy?

Ans. By avoiding all improper paſtime: by making it a day of prayer and

and thankſgiving to God: by going to Church: and by reading good books at School, and at home.

Queſt. What is Sunday called beſide the Sabbath-day?

Ans. The Lord's day?

Queſt. Whom do you mean by the Lord?

Ans. The Lord JESUS CHRIST, the Son of GOD, the Saviour of the World.

Queſt. Why is it called the Lord's day?

Ans. Becauſe on this day our Lord roſe from the dead.

LESSON. III.

Queſt. Why do good boys and girls go to Church?

Ans. To ſay their prayers to God, and to hear the word of God.

Queſt. What prayers are ſaid at Church?

Ans.

Ans. The Prayers in the Common-prayer book.

Queſt. What do you mean by common prayers.

Ans. The prayers, which are offered up to God in publick, by a congregation, for themſelves, and all men.

Queſt. Why are they called common or publick prayers?

Ans. To diſtinguiſh them from private prayers, which all good people offer up to God in private.

LESSON IV.

Queſt. What do you mean by a Congregation?

Ans. A congregation is any number of perſons met together to worſhip God.

Queſt. What are our Saviour's words concerning publick prayer?

Ans.

Ans. *Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midſt of them.*

Queſt. What are our Saviour's words concerning private prayer?

Ans. *When thou prayeſt, enter into thy cloſet; and when thou haſt ſhut thy door, pray to thy Father, which is in ſecret; and thy Father, which ſeeth in ſecret, ſhall reward thee openly.*

Queſt. What ought you to pray for?

Ans. That all men may join in the true worſhip of God; that God would grant me ſuch food as is neceſſary for me; that he would forgive me all that I have done amiſs; and would forever hereafter keep me from ſin, and all temptation to it.

LESSON V.

Queſt. Why do we make our prayers to God?

Ans. Becauſe God is our heavenly Father; becauſe *in him we live, and move, and have our being*, and becauſe we neither have, nor can have any thing, but what we receive from him.

Queſt. You ſay that in God we live, and move, and have our being: what do you mean by theſe words?

Ans. I mean that God is our maker, and that we depend on his providence for our health and ſafety every moment of our lives.

Queſt. What do you mean by God's providence?

Ans. I mean God's merciful goodneſs, by which he provides for, and ſupports, and takes care of all his creatures.

Queſt. Ought we not to be very thankful for ſuch merciful goodneſs?

Ans. Yes: and I pray God that his grace may enable me to ſhew myſelf thankful.

Queſt. How ought we to ſhew ourſelves thankful?

Ans. Not only with our lips, but in our lives.

Queſt. How in our lives?

Ans. By walking before him in holineſs and righteouſneſs all our days; that is, by doing what God has commanded us; by believing, what he has revealed to us in the Scriptures; and eſpecially by our daily remembrance of his care and goodneſs in our prayers.

LESSON VI.

Queſt. Ought we not to be conſtant in our prayers?

Ans. Yes: our Saviour commands us to *watch and pray, leſt we enter into temptation*: and his Apoſtle teaches us to *pray without ceaſing*; and to *watch thereto with all perſeverance*?

Queſt.

Queſt. What do you mean by *praying without ceaſing, and with all perſeverance?*

Ans. I mean never neglecting prayer: beginning and ending every day with prayer; and praying for God's bleſſing on our meals, and all our actions.

Queſt. Was not David conſtant in his prayers?

Ans. Yes: he *kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks to God.*

Queſt. Was not Daniel alſo conſtant in his prayers?

Ans. Yes: he ſaith, *at Evening and Morning, and noon-day will I pray to God and cry aloud, and he ſhall hear my voice.*

Queſt. What do you mean by the words *cry aloud?*

Ans. To pray devoutly and earneſtly.

Queſt. What is recorded of Anna the propheteſs?

Ans. That ſhe *departed not from the Temple, but ſerved God with faſting and prayers night and day.*

Queſt. What do you mean by the words *departed not from the Temple?*

Ans. I mean, never failed going to the Temple; never neglected the regular hours of prayer; never ſuffered any buſineſs or pleaſure to interfere with her duty to God.

LESSON VII.

Queſt. What do you mean by *the Temple?*

Ans. The houſe of God; the place of publick worſhip.

Queſt. Did not David take great pleaſure in going to the houſe of God?

Ans. Yes. *I was glad*, he ſaith, *when they ſaid unto me, let us go into the houſe of God.*

Queſt. Did he not find great comfort and delight in frequenting God's houſe?

Queſt.

Ans. Yes. He ſaith, *a day in thy courts*, that is, in thy temple, *is better than a thouſand* any where elſe. *I had rather be a door keeper in the houſe of my God, than to dwell in the tents of ungodlineſs.*

Queſt. And who was David, who took ſuch delight in ſerving God?

Ans. He was a great king; and might have had all the pleaſures of the world, and yet he preferred the comforts of devotion to all the pleaſures of the world.

LESSON VIII.

Queſt. What do we now call the place of publick worſhip.

Ans. The Church.

Queſt. Has not God commanded us to meet together for publick worſhip?

Ans. Yes. In the book of Deuteronomy it is written; *Gather the people together, Men, Women, and Children, and the ſtranger that is*

within thy gates; that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord, and observe to do all the words of his law: and that their children which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord, your GOD, *as long as ye live.*

Queſt. Has not THE SON OF GOD alſo commanded us to meet together for publick worſhip?

Ans. Yes. Our Saviour commanded his diſciples to meet together to keep the Lord's ſupper; and to continue ſo to do till the worlds end.

Queſt. And how did the diſciples follow our Lord's injunction?

Ans. They *continued ſteadfaſtly in communion together, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Queſt. On what day of the week did they meet together for publick worſhip?

Ans. On the firſt day of the week, that is, the Lord's day. So in the *Acts of the Apoſtles* it is written:

Upon

Upon the firſt day of the week, when the diſciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them.

Queſt. What mean you by the words *to break bread?*

Ans, To keep the Lord's ſupper.

Queſt. Was the keeping of the Lord's ſupper an act of publick worſhip?

Ans. Yes.

Queſt. How was it to be kept?

Ans. Not in private *houſes*, like a common meal; but at *church*, with thankſgivings, and pſalms, and prayers. The Apoſtle ſays: *What have ye not* houſes *to eat and drink in? or deſpiſe ye the* Church *of God?*

Queſt. Did our Saviour then ordain publick worſhip?

Ans. Yes. By ordaining the Lord's ſupper he ordained publick worſhip.

Queſt. Has not GOD promiſed his eſpecial bleſſing on all, who go to Church, and frequent his publick worſhip?

Ans.

Ans. *Yes:* GOD ſaith, *in all places, where I record my name, I will come to thee, and bleſs thee.* And THE SON OF GOD ſaith, *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midſt of them.*

LESSON IX.

Queſt. Ought you to go to Church on other Days beſides Sundays?

Ans. On all days, when there are prayers at Church.

Queſt. Ought every body to go to Church on ſuch days?

Ans. All ought to go, who are not prevented by their daily calling and labouring to get a livelihood.

Queſt. Who are eſpecially bound to go to Church on all occaſions of publick worſhip?

Ans. Children who are not yet able to work, and old people, who are paſt work, and all who are not obliged to work for their living.

Queſt.

Queſt. Why ſhould children be very diligent in their attendance on publick worſhip?

Ans. That they may obtain God's bleſſing on their tender years, and on their future lives; that they may learn betimes to know and to do their duty; and ſo to number their days that they may apply their hearts unto wiſdom.

Queſt. Why ſhould old people go to Church on all occaſions they can?

Ans. To make amends (to the utmoſt of their power) for their paſt omiſſions of religious duties; to make the beſt uſe of the time, which God has mercifully left them; and to do all they can, to make their peace with God, before they die.

Queſt. Why ſhould thoſe, who are not obliged to work for their livelihood, go to Church on all occaſions of publick worſhip?

Ans. To thank God for their enjoyment of bleſſings, which they have *not* deſerved; and for their freedom

from evils, which they *have* deserved; and to pray God, that the comforts of this world may not lead to misery in the next.

Quest. How can the comforts of this world lead to misery in the next?

Ans. By rendering Men too much attached to this world, and too careful about the things of the world: by making them forgetful of God, and of their dependance on him, and so, *lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*